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J. E. LABOUREUR





PRINTS

by

J. E. LABOUREUR



ST. GEORGE'S GALLERY

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PREFACE

BY CAMPBELL DODGSON.

(Quoted in part with acknowledgments from "The Engravings of J. E. Laboureur," by Campbell Dodgson, published in *Artwork*, Oct. 1925.)

IN M. J. E. Laboureur I recognise one of the most original talents of contemporary France. Born at Nantes in 1877, he cannot be reckoned to-day among "les jeunes"; arithmetic forbids; but he has the energy, the enterprise, and more than the usual industry of youth. It was as a wood-engraver, and as Lepère's pupil, that he started his career, contributing to *L'Image* in 1896. A new epoch opens with the year 1913, in which he became pre-eminently an etcher, while in 1916 he took to engraving with the burin, the instrument of his preference since that date. It is in this last period that he has revealed himself as an innovator, interpreting nature, to which he owes suggestions for his designs, with the freedom of a creator who disdains subservience to any generally accepted formula. He will not see through other people's eyes; he will not make it too easy, I must add, for other people to see through his. His conventions must be accepted on his own terms. If you insist on fighting them inch by inch, and arguing that this detail or that is wrong, a Laboureur engraving will have nothing to say to you, and anything that you say to it is likely to fail of its effect.

M. Laboureur is a rebel, not by caprice but by conviction. Do not suppose that he cannot "draw"; that he has never been taught the rules of perspective; that he has never noticed the usual proportions of the human head to the human figure, or the way in which it is accustomed to grow out of the human neck. He is bored with platitudes; spare him their repetition.

M. Laboureur has carried to a fine art, and practises with increasing skill, the habit of picking out from a scene which he proposes to depict such details only as appear to him to be amusing or significant. These he will rearrange and combine in his own mind till he sees them as a satisfactory pattern to be presented to the eye in clear-cut lines of absolute neatness and precision against a background of white paper. He abhors any "tone" that is done by printing; he achieves it, in some of his later prints, by passages closely engraved with lines of extreme delicacy, resembling in effect the so-called "aquatint" of some of the engravers in colour of the reign of Louis XVI. He has also, in a few cases, printed in colours from a combination of plates.

In his burin work he has made himself master of a technique which, different as it is from everything which has hitherto counted as orthodox in the art of line engraving, is indisputably good of its kind. He has not made the least attempt to imitate the old masters

of the burin who have won immortal fame for France. It has not been his ambition to cover the whole surface of his plate with a system of beautifully finished lines that skilfully imitate every variety of material and texture. All that has been supremely well done by the engravers of past centuries; we need not expect an engraver of to-day to repeat it. Occasionally he will engrave a little piece of still life with an approach to realism; notice, for instance, the elaborate and beautifully wrought iron railing of the balcony in "Le Balcon sur la Mer"; but he will never become tedious by distributing an even finish over the whole surface of his plate. His method is, rather, to give by samples a suggestion by which the eye, with a little imagination, can without fatigue construct the whole. In his pure engravings of still life, his tulips, strawberries and artificial roses, and some of the vignettes and *culs-de-lampe* of his illustrated books, he uses natural forms with a charming tact and fancy. The majority of his subjects are taken from contemporary life, which he depicts with a pleasant wit and sometimes a touch of caricature.

In recent years M. Laboureur has engraved numerous sets of illustrations for books. A detailed and authoritative catalogue of his work, from the pen of M. Louis Godefroy, is to be expected shortly.

CATALOGUE

The Price, upon application, is in each instance for the impression only, unmounted and unframed.

Mounted	1s. 6d. extra
Mounted and Framed (19 × 14) ...	10s. 6d. extra

No.	Title.	Date of Publication.		
1.	Le passage à niveau	...	...	1913
2.	Le Café du Commerce	...	...	1913
3.	Le chapeau de velours	...	...	1914
4.	La fenêtre Canadienne	...	...	1914
5.	La marchande de violettes	...	...	1914
6.	Promenade en Amérique	...	...	1914
7.	Bar en Pennsylvanie	...	...	1914
8.	Le printemps en Artois	...	...	1916
9.	La jolie marchande de volailles	...	...	1916
10.	Irish Whiskey	...	...	1916
11.	Les plaisiers du camp	...	...	1916
12.	Cavaliers Anglais en Picardie	...	...	1916
13.	Le jardin de Mlle. Vicogne	...	...	
14.	La marchande de liqueurs	...	...	



No.	Title.	Date of Publication.				
15.	L'obus	...	...	...	...	1916
16.	Le soldat sous la pluie	...	...	...	...	
17.	Le petit marchand de chocolats	...	...	...	...	1917
18.	La Cabaretière obèse	...	...	...	...	1917
19.	Le diner a l'auberge	...	...	...	...	
20.	Le dimanche a l'arrière	...	...	...	...	
21.	Le petit marchand du front	...	...	...	...	
22.	Le 14 Juillet sur le front Anglais	...	...	...	...	1917
23.	Nègres Américains à St. Nazaire	...	...	...	...	1917
24.	Dockers negres	...	...	...	...	
25.	Le policeman Americain	...	...	...	...	1918
26.	Bachelor's fare	...	...	...	...	1918
27.	Tea-room du front Anglais	...	...	...	...	
28.	La receveuse	...	...	...	...	1918
29.	Le tir forain	...	...	...	...	
30.	Paysage au tunnel	...	...	...	...	
31.	Souper des dockers	...	...	...	...	1919
32.	Jeune fille au verre de liqueur	...	...	...	...	
33.	La poupée de chiffons	...	...	...	...	
34.	Paysage aux buttes-Chaumont	...	...	...	...	1921

No.	Title.	Date of Publication.		
35.	Café de la Poissonnerie ...	...	...	1920
36.	L'assiettes de petits fours	...	...	
37.	La fille au litre ...	...	...	1921
38.	Jeune fille au chapeau blanc	...	...	1921
39.	Jeune fille au cocktail	...	...	
40.	Le douanier ...	...	...	
41.	Café du port ...	...	...	1921
42.	Les trois pommes	...	...	
43.	Les trois marine	...	...	1921
44.	La blanchisseuse	...	...	1922
45.	Le pêcheur et le douanier ...	...	...	1922
46.	La petite fille aux provisions	...	...	1922
47.	Hôtel meublé	...	...	
48.	Vase de fleurs	...	...	1922
49.	La jetée ...	...	...	
50.	La marchande de palourdes	...	...	1922
51.	Le repos de cyclistes	...	...	1922
52.	La petit place	...	...	
53.	Orage ...	...	...	1922
54.	Les aquarellistes	...	...	1922

No.	Title.	Date of Publication.	
55.	En forêt	...	1922
56.	Vüe du chateau de Villaines	...	1923
57.	Le paysagiste	...	...
58.	Les tulipes rouges	...	1923
58a.	La boutique de la charcutière	...	...
59.	Le dinér chez le bistrot ...	...	1923
60.	Marine aux 4 bateaux	...	1923
61.	Pêcheurs causant	...	...
62.	Le petit marché	...	...
63.	Temps orageux	...	...
64.	Le marchand de glaces	...	...
65.	Le Sémaphore	...	...
66.	La sortie de l'Eglise	...	...
67.	Promenade à la Chapelle	...	...
68.	Fille de ferme	...	...
69.	Fleurs artificielles (nénuphars)	...	...
70.	Fleurs artificielles (roses)	...	...
71.	La fille à Melie	...	...
72.	Les conscrits du village	...	...
73.	Le balcon sur la mer	...	...

No.	Title.					Date of Publication.
74.	Les fraises	...	...	...	...	...
75.	Le chasseur	...	...	...	...	...
76.	Causerie villageoise	...	...	...	...	1924
77.	Le facteur rural	...	...	...	...	...
78.	Le 14 Juillet au village	...	...	...	...	...
79.	La porte de l'Estaminet	...	...	...	...	...
80.	La lingère	...	...	...	...	...
81.	Pêcheurs au carrelet	...	...	...	...	...
82.	Cabaret vendéen	...	...	...	...	...
83.	La Maison de Marie	...	...	...	...	1925
83a.	La Fille aux Oies	...	...	...	...	...
84.	L'auberge du bord de l'eau	...	...	...	...	1925
85.	Hôtel des Voyageurs	...	...	...	...	...
86.	La Russe	...	...	...	...	...
87.	Le chemin dans les blés	...	...	...	...	...
88.	Le Dessinateur	...	...	...	...	...
89.	Marchande de fleurs de Piccadilly	...	...	...	...	...
90.	La Ruelle	...	...	...	...	...
91.	Sortie de la grande 'messe (Morbihan)	...	...	...	...	...
92.	La cabane forestière	...	...	...	...	...
93.	La petite pêcheuse	...	...	...	...	...

No.	Title.	Date of Publication.				
94.	La cage	...	...	...	...	1925
95.	La perdrix rouge	...	...	...	...	
96.	Automne	...	...	...	...	
97.	La tonnelle rustique	...	...	...	...	
98.	La pêche aux crevettes	...	...	...	...	
99.	Touristes en Bretagne	...	...	...	...	
100.	Le chemin de Camoëlin	...	...	...	...	
101.	La grande bergère	...	...	...	...	1926
102.	La petite plage	...	...	...	...	1926
103.	Kiosque à Journaux	...	...	...	...	
104.	Promenade à la ferme	...	...	...	...	
105.	Les deux chaumières	...	...	...	...	1928
106.	La pêche à la ligne	...	...	...	...	1928
107.	Automne	...	...	...	...	1928
108.	Le tir forain	lent by Monsieur Marcel Boulestin.				
109.	La Parade					
110.	L'acrobate					
111.	Le clown No. 1					
112.	Le clown No. 2					